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As an appendix to this abstract of Dr. Pickells' memoir, it will be proper to mention that Mr. Kirwan, for some papers read by him before the Royal Society, at the very commencement of his scientific career, was voted the Copley Medal; and that he was immediately afterwards elected President of this Academy; a distinction with which he continued to be honoured up to the period of his death.

Sir William Betham exhibited an impression of an ancient seal, lately found near Beverley in Yorkshire, on which is represented a mounted cavalier with a very long sword drawn in his hand, round which is the following inscription :

S. BRIEN. REGIS . DE KENEL.
EOGAIN.

Brien O'Neill was King of Kinel Owen, or Tyrone, from A. D. 1241 to 1260, when, along with many others of the Irish chieftains, he was slain in the battle of Drom Deirg, or Down. His head was cut off and sent to King Henry III. ; and probably this seal fell into the hands of the English victors, who carried it to England, and this accounts for its being found in Yorkshire.

The Annals of the Four Masters have the following account of the battle.

1260.—"The battle of Drom Deirg, at Downpatrick, was fought by Brien O'Neill and Hugh O'Conor (King of Connaught) against the English of the north of Ireland, in which many of the Irish chiefs were slain, namely, Brien O'Neill, the chief ruler of Ireland ; Donall O'Cairre, Dermod M'Loughlin, Manus O'Cahan, Cane O'Henery, Donslevy MacCan, Conor O'Duvdirma, and his son, Hugh O'Cahan ; Murtogh O'Cahan, Aulave O'Gormley, Cu-ula O'Hanlon, with many of the Connaught chiefs."

The English army was commanded by Stephen de Longespey, third son of William de Longespey, natural son of King Henry II., by the Fair Rosamond, who became Count de Rosmar in Normandy, and Earl of Salisbury in right of his wife, Ela, daughter and sole heiress of William D'Eurieux, Count de Rosmar and Earl of Salisbury. Stephen was married to Emmeline, daughter and heiress of Walter de Riddlesford, and relict of Hugh de Lacy, first Earl of Ulster. He has been sometimes styled both Earl of Salisbury and of Ulster, even by Ware, but he really was neither. He was made Lord Justiciary of Ireland in 1258, 44 Hen. III.

This Brien is mentioned on the records in the Tower of London, where, on the Close Rolls, is a writ directed to *Brien O'Nel Regi de Kinelun*, to go with the Justiciary of Ireland, with horse and arms, to join the King's army, then on an expedition to the parts of Scotland. If he went, his seal may have been lost on this occasion.

On the great Roll of the Pipe of the Irish Exchequer are the following entries:

"Compotus Ulltoniæ anno Regni Regis Henrici secundo xlv. Nich. de Dunhened Senescallo.

"Bren O'Nel M. vacc. pro transgress. quas solvere debet ad tres terminos, sicut continetur in Rotulo xliii.

"Idem Bren Regulus de Kinelun C. lib. de auxilio Dñi Regis ad guerram suam in Vasconiam sustinendam.

"Hibernienses de Turtere CC. lib. pro eodem.

"Turtere pro eodem xx lib.

"O Nel Regulus de Kenelun MMM $\overset{\text{xx}}{\text{IIII}}$ XII.* Vacc. de fine facto cum Justiciario.

"Idem O Nel CCCC. Vacc. pro arreragiis redditibus."

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* 3092 cows—three thousand four score and twelve.

Dr. Henry Kennedy read a paper on the progress of epidemics.

The object of this paper was to show that a great general law existed, which appeared to regulate the progress of all the more wide-spread epidemics which have passed over Europe within authentic records ; that this law exhibits a progressive movement, and that this movement is from east, or south-east ; to west, or north-west.

The paper was illustrated by a printed chart, which offered, in one view, an outline of almost all the great epidemics of which there is any account. The writer further showed that, in the diseases of the lower animals, the same law also obtained, and that in America the same had been observed when the vegetable world was affected with blights.

Notice was likewise taken of the fact that great cold had, on different occasions, been found to move from east to west.

From these several facts the writer concluded that some general law exists, regulating the progress of epidemics ; and that the existence of this law must alter materially the views commonly held on the spread of epidemic sickness by either famine or contagion.

The writer confined himself exclusively to the consideration of the general law, and said he hoped to be allowed, on some future occasion, to make some deductions from it.

The President exhibited a diagram, representing the oscillations of the barometer from December 18th, 1845, to the present date.

The Secretary read a letter from Robert James Graves, Esq., M. D., containing a development of the method by which he proposes to prevent the waste of water, by evaporation, from tanks and reservoirs, in hot climates.